










AP English Language 2023 Cheatsheet

Theme →	Rhetorical Situation	Claims & Evidence	Reasoning & Organization	Style
 Unit 1 Claims, Reasoning, Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rhetorical situation: refers to exigence, purpose, audience, writer, context, and message Exigence: what prompts/inspires the writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writer position is conveyed through defensible claim(s)- this means it's not solely fact Evidence may include: facts, anecdotes, analogies, stats, examples, observations, experiments, etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence is strategically embedded into writer's ideas; not just pasted in Writers need to be able to explain why evidence is significant/proves their point 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Style of writing depends on writers' purpose (of which they may have more than one of)
 Unit 2 Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audience influences the choices writers make in terms of persuasion methods Writers attempt to relate to the audience's emotions/beliefs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both quantity and quality need to be good for sufficient evidence Evidence can strengthen credibility and help the audience relate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis: overarching claim writer wants to prove with reasoning and evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis may be sprinkled throughout the text; if it's directly expressed, it's called a thesis statement
 Unit 3 Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writer's purpose influences method of development- range from narration, cause-effect, comparison-contrast, etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commentary necessary to make evidence logically relate to claim Need to acknowledge others' intellectual property through reference/citation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesis: integration of evidence and others' arguments into writer's Sequence of paragraphs directly related to line of reasoning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holes in a line of reasoning may undermine a writer's argument completely Adding real-life experiences can advance an argument using relatability
 Unit 4 Intros + Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparison-contrast method: analyze categories of comparison Definition/description method: relates details of something using examples/illustrations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction may include evidence to draw the audience in Conclusion may summarize evidence and argument in order to leave the reader thinking and potentially acting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis may foreshadow line of reasoning Don't necessarily include all the points of an argument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language and tone should be adjusted based on intended audience Diction can reveal education level and attitudes of intended audience
 Unit 5 Bring it together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Descriptive words (adj. and adv.) can be strategically chosen in order to convey writer's perspective; keeping in mind what's most convincing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Body paragraphs are usually where claims and evidences are Coherence necessary to create logical connections in between ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parallel structure and repetition can help organize evidence and commentary Transitional elements: words/phrases/clauses that show relationships between ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writers consider obvious and more hidden (ie connotative) meanings of words Accurate diction can help the audience understand the writers' POV
 Unit 6 Perspective, Positioning, Bias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position ≠ perspective- writers may share the same position but approach the topic from different background and specific opinions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writers need to consider the credibility of their sources, as doubtful sources may detract from their argument Only the most relevant information should be incorporated into a writer's argument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While synthesizing evidence, writers should recognize the biases that may be present in said evidence Be careful about fallacies (misleading arguments) while writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shifts in tone from paragraph to paragraph can indicate the writer's reevaluation of their argument- may reconsider their line of reasoning
 Unit 7 Arguments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To successfully convince audience, writer needs to understand complexities of topic Can't convince audience if they only have a surface level understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The best arguments avoid generalizing or absolute claims Sentence order can illustrate the pieces of evidence most prioritized by the writer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination: used to show equality between ideas; words like so, and, or, for Subordination: used to show inequality between ideas; words like although, since, unless 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punctuation like colons and dashes can clarify and supplement sentences Using design choices such as <i>italics</i> or boldface can emphasize certain ideas
 Unit 8 Style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writers need to consider the needs and contexts of their audience when choosing diction and organization Writer credibility influenced by choices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parenthetical additions can provide greater detail for claims Modifiers can clarify and specify the claim 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparisons like similes and analogies can help relate ideas to the audience If comparisons are not easily understandable though, they may detract from writer's purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irony and complexity can be indicated through writer's choices Irony can be created when there's a stark contrast between the audience's expectations and the writer's argument
 Unit 9 Complexity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writers' concession (accepting part/all of counterargument) or rebuttal (offering contrasting perspective on counterevidence) can improve their credibility to the audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counterarguments can be introduced using transitions Not all claims attempt to disprove counterarguments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebutting a counterargument requires explanation/commentary on counterevidence- need to prove why it is invalid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic word choice during thesis writing can convey stronger feelings of urgency, importance, and depth

FRQ Tips: Best to write thesis in intro paragraph | Thesis template for RA: In his/her (text genre + title), (author's name) uses (rhetorical devices) in order to convey (message). | Body paragraph template: (1) Intro a broader strategy (2) A tool/device that helps achieve the strategy (3) Explain the WHAT, HOW, WHY